

is doing the same thing over and over and expecting different results." This administration can do better. It needs to do better.

With that, I yield the floor.

I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. MCCONNELL. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

RECOGNITION OF THE MINORITY LEADER

The Republican leader is recognized.

REMEMBERING ROBERT J. DOLE

Mr. MCCONNELL. Madam President, it is hard to believe it has been 25 years since Senator Dole took leave of the Senate. It is even harder to believe he passed away this past weekend, not because it comes as a shock to say goodbye to an elder statesman at age 98 but because our colleague was still so energetic, so involved, and so forward-looking right through to his final months.

If you didn't know Bob Dole, if you just read a summary of his impressive Senate career, his leadership tenure, his Presidential campaign, he might sound like a man of contrasts.

On one hand, our friend from Kansas preached conservative values—personal responsibility and fiscal discipline—but this son of the Dust Bowl and wounded warrior was also laser-focused on caring for the most vulnerable, notching landmark wins on subjects from food insecurity to veterans' issues, to the rights of disabled Americans.

On the one hand, Senator Dole took pride in our Republican Party. He rose to key roles that were necessarily somewhat partisan, first leading our Senate Republican conference for many years and then leading a Presidential ticket. But he was also a consensus-finding legislator, an honest broker with deep friendships and working relationships that spanned the aisle.

On the one hand, our colleague was earnest, unironic, and somewhat serious—a true "greatest generation" midwesterner. But he also wielded a charming, disarming, and self-deprecating sense of humor, whether he was cracking one-liners, often at his own expense, or doing a joint appearance with his comic impersonator.

Allow me just one example of Bob Dole's comedic talent.

In January of 1997, just after President Clinton had defeated Bob and won his reelection, the President graciously bestowed on Bob the Presidential Medal of Freedom.

There they were, in mid-January, just 3 days before the day Bob had spent months hoping he would be inaugurated, but President Clinton would be inaugurated instead. It was a gracious gesture and a warm event all around.

The time comes for Bob's remarks. He walks up to the podium, looks around, and he begins:

I, Robert J. Dole—

The crowd is already cracking up.

do solemnly swear—

Then a theatrical pause.

Oh, sorry. Wrong speech.

Once the laughs began to die down, there came the self-deprecating punch line:

[I thought] I would be here this historic week receiving something from the President . . . but I thought it would be the front door key.

The thing is, there was no contradiction in any of it, no paradox. Bob's life and career were very, very consistent. The virtues and the values that led Bob Dole to raise his right hand, enlist in the Army, and fight bravely until he could not raise that hand any longer were the same virtues and values that compelled him to raise his left hand for a different oath in the Kansas State Capitol a few years later and then across the Rotunda in the U.S. House and then here in the Senate.

The same virtues and values that animated Bob's passionate, pointed speeches in the 1960s about a citizen's duty animated his great empathy toward those who needed help.

With Bob Dole, what you saw was what you got, and from his comrades in the 10th Mountain Division to his constituents in Kansas, to the whole Senate and the entire country, what we got was extraordinary.

I cannot summarize in one speech the full life or legacy of our friend Bob Dole. There are the battlefield heroics, the hospital-bed friendships with fellow future Senators Phil Hart and "the best bridge player at Percy Jones Hospital," Dan Inouye. There is the policy legacy that endures to this day. These remembrances will take Congress this whole week, and they will occupy historians for decades to come.

Bob Dole had the same chief hero for his entire adult life: his fellow son of Kansas, a general, and then a President, Dwight Eisenhower. Bob didn't just like Ike; he idolized him. In Senator Dole's Senate farewell speech in 1996, he saved the second-to-the-last quotation for his hero from Abilene, KS.

He kept his foot personally on the gas pedal for the Eisenhower Memorial here in Washington well into his nineties. He invoked and praised Ike constantly throughout his career.

One such occasion was in late 1979. An event was held at Eisenhower's boyhood home, Presidential library, and the gravesite in Abilene on what would have been his 89th birthday. It so happened that only a couple of weeks later Mrs. Eisenhower would pass away and be laid to rest there as well.

On that day, Senator Dole explained that America had gotten "lucky."

Why? Because "when we were thirsty for leadership, we turned to a man from Kansas, a genuine hero who embodied in his own life the finest qualities of the American people . . . a man from grassroots America, steeped in

the traditions of neighborhood and patriotism and service . . . a strong man who earned his strength in war yet never forgot the disease of poverty or the scourge of personal suffering."

Bob was always eloquent, and those lines of his certainly did describe Ike.

But now that our friend's 98 amazing years have come to a close, we can say with certainty that Eisenhower isn't the only Kansan who meets those standards. Not only General Eisenhower but also 2LT Robert J. Dole was a genuine hero from Kansas who helped satisfy a nation's thirst for leadership, who was steeped in homespun American values and proud of it, who fought with great courage and valor on the battlefield, and whose concern for the most vulnerable in our society came right with him into the halls of power.

I mentioned that Eisenhower was Bob's second-to-last quotation in his farewell remarks to the Senate, so I want to close today where he closed 25 years ago. Musing on both his past and his future, our colleague's final quote was from the midwestern poet Carl Sandburg:

[Y]esterday is a wind gone down, a sun dropped in the west. I tell you there is nothing in the world, only an ocean of tomorrows, a sky of tomorrows.

Now, for our remarkable friend, the Sun of this world has set at last. But we pray in faith that he now beholds an even brighter light; that the endless ocean of tomorrows now stretches before him.

The entire Senate sends our prayers to Elizabeth and Robin and to so many family, friends, and former staff of Senator Dole. The whole country stands with you, not only in grief but in gladness and thanksgiving, for almost a century that was lived so patriotically, so gratefully, and so well.

RUSSIA

Madam President, now on a totally different matter, last week brought new information about Russia's military activities along its border with Ukraine. Heavily armed ground forces are mobilizing by the tens of thousands. It is looking more and more like Vladimir Putin intends to redraw another border by force.

The escalation of Putin's ongoing war against Ukraine is an immediate threat to Ukraine's sovereignty and to the security of its people. But as always with Putin, it is also a test with much broader consequences. Can aggressive powers violate sovereign countries without facing serious consequence?

Fellow authoritarians in Beijing and Tehran will be watching how the free world responds. And President Biden has an opportunity to set the tone when he speaks with Putin tomorrow. The stakes for the President's call with Putin couldn't be clearer. We know what happens when the United States fails to engage with Russia from a position of strength. We know what weakness and capitulation get us.

Remember how President Obama treated arms control and European-